



JAMES A. NOYES, Director

# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

900 SOUTH FREMONT AVENUE  
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91803-1331  
Telephone: (626) 458-5100  
www.ladpw.org

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:  
P.O. BOX 1460  
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460

October 24, 2002

IN REPLY PLEASE  
REFER TO FILE: PD-3

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**PALOS VERDES-WALTERIA DRAIN  
NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND AUTHORITY TO PROCEED  
SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 4  
3 VOTES**

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:**

1. Consider the Negative Declaration for the proposed project to construct a storm drain in the Cities of Torrance and Palos Verdes Estate to alleviate flooding in the project area, concur that the project with the proposed mitigation measures will not have a significant effect on the environment, find that the Negative Declaration reflects the independent judgment of the County, and approve the Negative Declaration.
2. Approve the project and authorize Public Works to carry out the project.
3. Find that the proposed project will have no adverse effect on wildlife resources, and authorize Public Works to complete and file a Certificate of Fee Exemption with the County Clerk.

**PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

The purpose of the proposed project is to alleviate flooding in the project area.

The proposed project, located in the Cities of Torrance and Palos Verdes Estates, consists of constructing two storm drain lines; one of the drain lines is approximately 6,000 feet in length and the other drain line is approximately 5,000 feet in length. The drain lines range in diameter from 30 to 84 inches. The proposed drain will outlet into WALTERIA Lake via an existing outlet. The project also provides for the future installation of four storm drain laterals.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
October 24, 2002  
Page 2

An environmental impact analysis/documentation is a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirement that is to be used in evaluating the environmental impacts of this project and should be considered in the approval of this project. As the project administrator, we are also the lead agency in terms of meeting the requirements of the CEQA.

The Initial Study of Environmental Factors indicated that the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment. Therefore, in accordance with the Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines adopted by your Board on November 17, 1987, a Negative Declaration (ND) was prepared and circulated for public review.

### **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

This action is consistent with the County Strategic Plan Goal of Service Excellence as it serves the public in a more responsive manner. Construction of the proposed drains will help to alleviate flooding in the project area.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

There will be no impact to the County's General Fund. Sufficient funds for the proposed storm drain project costs are available to the Flood Control District.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

Under the CEQA, any lead agency preparing an ND must provide a public notice within a reasonable period of time prior to certification of the ND. To comply with this requirement, a Public Notice pursuant to Section 21092 of the Public Resources Code was published in the *Daily Breeze* on September 25, 2002. Copies of the ND were provided to the Waleria Library, the Torrance City Library, the Malaga Cove Plaza Library, the Torrance City Clerk's Office and Office of the City Engineer, and the City of Palos Verdes Estates for public review. Notices regarding the availability of the ND were also mailed to residents within the vicinity of the project.

The public review period for the ND ended on October 14, 2002. Comments were received from Ms. Betty Moye and Mr. John Barton. Responses to those comments are included as Attachment B of the ND.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
October 24, 2002  
Page 3

Based upon the Initial Study of Environmental Factors, it was determined that the project with the proposed mitigation measures will not have a significant effect on the environment. Therefore, approval of the ND is requested at this time.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION**

CEQA requires public agency decision makers to document and consider the environmental implication of their action.

A fee must be paid to the State Department of Fish and Game when certain notices required by the CEQA are filed with the County Clerk. The County is exempt from paying this fee when the Board finds that a project will have no impacts on wildlife resources. The initial Study of Environmental Factors concluded that there will be no adverse effects on wildlife resources.

Upon approval of the ND by your Board, Public Works will file a Certificate of Fee Exemption with the County Clerk. A \$25 handling fee will be paid to the County Clerk for processing. We will also file a Notice of Determination in accordance with the requirements of Section 21152(a) of the California Public Resources Code.

### **IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

The project will not have an impact on current flood control services or projects.

### **CONCLUSION**

Please return one approved copy of this letter to Public Works.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES A. NOYES  
Director of Public Works

EWL:ph  
C020657  
A:\PALOSVERDES-WALTERIADRAIN.WPD

Enc.

cc: Chief Administrative Office, County Counsel

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**  
**REVISED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**  
**FOR**  
**PALOS VERDES-WALTERIA DRAIN**

I. Location and Brief Description

The Negative Declaration for the Palos Verdes-Walteria Drain has been revised due to a change in the storm drain alignment. Previously, a section of existing City of Torrance storm drain extending southerly from the intersection of Vista Montana and Paseo De Las Tortugas, through private property, to Via El Sereno was to be incorporated as part of the project drain. This city drain, which connects to the City of Palos Verdes Estates Proposed Miscellaneous Transfer Drain 1495, will no longer be used. The new alignment consists of approximately 1,200 feet of 48-inch reinforced concrete pipe storm drain extending from that intersection with 1495 easterly in the undeveloped zone along the City of Torrance and City of Palos Verdes Estates border.

The proposed project, located in the City of Torrance, consists of constructing two storm drain lines; one of the drain line is approximately 6,000 feet in length and the other drain line is approximately 5,000 feet in length. Both drain lines are ranging in diameter from 30 to 78 inches.

The proposed drain will connect to the Palos Verdes Estates' proposed Miscellaneous Transfer Drain 1495 at four different points. The connections will collect storm flow from the City of Palos Verdes Estates. The proposed storm drain will then collect storm flow from the streets along the project alignment and drain into Walteria Lake via an existing outlet. In addition, the project will allow for the future installation of four storm drain laterals.

The purpose of the proposed project is to alleviate flooding in the project area.

II. Mitigation Measures Included in the Project to Avoid Potentially Significant Effects

No significant environmental effects were identified. However, mitigation measures are discussed in Section XVIII of the Initial Study.

III. Finding of No Significant Effect

Based on the attached Initial Study, it has been determined that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

Attach.

## INITIAL STUDY OF ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

1. **Project Title:** Palos Verdes-Walteria Drain
2. **Lead Agency Name and Address:** County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, 900 South Fremont Avenue, Alhambra, CA 91803
3. **Contact Person and Phone Number:** Mr. Edward W. Lee, (626) 458-3915
4. **Project Location:** City of Torrance
5. **Project Sponsor's Name and Address:** County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, 900 South Fremont Avenue, Alhambra, CA 91803
6. **General Plan Designation:** Construction/Maintenance
7. **Zoning:** Low-Dense Residential
8. **Description of Project:** The proposed project consists of constructing two storm drain lines. The proposed drain will connect to the Palos Verdes Estates' proposed Miscellaneous Transfer Drain 1495 at four different points. The connections will collect storm flow from the City of Palos Verdes Estates. The proposed storm drain will then collect storm flow from the streets along the project alignment and drain into Walteria Lake via an existing outlet. In addition, the project will allow for the future installation of four storm drain laterals. The purpose of the proposed project is to alleviate flooding in the project area.
9. **Surrounding Land Use and Settings:**
  - A. **Project Site** - The project area consists of medium-dense residential homes along two-lane roadways.
  - B. **Surrounding Properties** - The properties surrounding the project area are diverse. One end of the project is a steep hill. The project outlets into the flat area of Walteria Lake. Animal life in the area includes domesticated animals, birds, and other small animals.
10. **Other agencies whose approval is required (and permits needed):** None

## ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" or "Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated," as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

<input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics	<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality
<input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Geology/Soils
<input type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials	<input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology/Water Quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Land Use/Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Noise	<input type="checkbox"/> Population/Housing
<input type="checkbox"/> Public Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation/Traffic
<input type="checkbox"/> Utilities/Service Systems	<input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance	

DETERMINATION: (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- ☒ I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- ☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- ☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- ☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- ☐ I find that although the proposed project would have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature  
  
Edward W. Lee  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date  
  
LACDPW  
For

## EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

- 1) A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants based on a project specific screening analysis).
- 2) All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
- 3) "Potential Significant Impact" is appropriate if an effect is significant or potentially significant, or if the lead agency lacks information to make a finding of insignificance. If there are one or more "Potential Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is required.
- 4) "Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potential Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from Section XVIII, "Earlier Analysis," may be cross-referenced).
- 5) Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other California Environmental Quality Act process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or Negative Declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). Earlier analyses are discussed in Section XVIII at the end of the checklist.
- 6) Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). See the sample question below. A source list should be attached and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.

**PALOS VERDES-WALTERIA DRAIN  
ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM**

		Potential Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>I. <u>AESTHETICS</u> - Would the project:</b>					
a)	Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?				X
b)	Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a State scenic highway?				X
c)	Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?				X
d)	Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?				X
<b>II. <u>AGRICULTURE RESOURCES</u> - In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. Would the project:</b>					
a)	Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to nonagricultural use?				X
b)	Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract?				X
c)	Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to nonagricultural use?				X
<b>III. <u>AIR QUALITY</u> - Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:</b>					
a)	Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?				X



			Potential Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	b)	Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?				X
	c)	Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is nonattainment under an applicable Federal or State ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for zone precursors)?				X
	d)	Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?			X	
	e)	Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?			X	
<b>IV. <u>BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES</u> - Would the project:</b>						
	a)	Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?				X
	b)	Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?			X	
	c)	Have a substantial adverse effect on Federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?				X
	d)	Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident, migratory fish, or wildlife species; or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors; or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?				X
	e)	Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?				X
	f)	Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan; Natural Community Conservation Plan; or other approved local, regional, or State habitat conservation plan?				X

			Potential Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>V. <u>CULTURAL RESOURCES</u> - Would the project:</b>						
	a)	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?				X
	b)	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?				X
	c)	Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?				X
	d)	Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?				X
<b>VI. <u>GEOLOGY AND SOILS</u> - Would the project:</b>						
	a)	Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
	i)	Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a know fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.			X	
	ii)	Strong seismic ground shaking?			X	
	iii)	Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?				X
	iv)	Landslides?			X	
	b)	Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?				X
	c)	Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?			X	
	d)	Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?				X
	e)	Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?				X

			Potential Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>VII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS - Would the project:</b>						
	a)	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?				X
	b)	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?			X	
	c)	Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?			X	
	d)	Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code, Section 65962.5, and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?				X
	e)	For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?			X	
	f)	For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?				X
	g)	Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?			X	
	h)	Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?			X	
<b>VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY - Would the project:</b>						
	a)	Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?			X	
	b)	Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of preexisting nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?			X	

			Potential Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	c)	Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?			X	
	d)	Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?			X	
	e)	Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?				X
	f)	Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?				X
	g)	Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a Federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?				X
	h)	Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?				X
	i)	Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?				X
	j)	Inundation by seiche, tsunamis, or mudflow?				X
<b>IX. <u>LAND USE AND PLANNING</u> - Would the project:</b>						
	a)	Physically divide an established community?				X
	b)	Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of any agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to, the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?				X
	c)	Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?				X

		Potential Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>X. <u>MINERAL RESOURCES</u> - Would the project:</b>					
a)	Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the State?				X
b)	Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?				X
<b>XI. <u>NOISE</u> - Would the project result in:</b>					
a)	Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or ordinance or applicable standards of other agencies?			X	
b)	Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?				X
c)	A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?				X
d)	A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?			X	
e)	For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?			X	
f)	For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				X
<b>XII. <u>POPULATION AND HOUSING</u> - Would the project:</b>					
a)	Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (e.g., by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (e.g., through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?				X
b)	Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				X
c)	Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				X
<b>XIII. <u>PUBLIC SERVICES</u></b>					

			Potential Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	a)	Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities; need for new or physically altered governmental facilities; the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
		Fire protection?				X
		Police protection?				X
		Schools?				X
		Parks?				X
		Other public facilities?				X
<b>XIV. RECREATION</b>						
	a)	Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?				X
	b)	Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?				X
<b>XV. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC - Would the project:</b>						
	a)	Cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?			X	
	b)	Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the County Congestion Management Agency for designated roads or highways?				X
	c)	Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?				X
	d)	Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?				X
	e)	Result in inadequate emergency access?			X	

			Potential Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	f)	Result in inadequate parking capacity?			X	
	g)	Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?				X
<b>XVI. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS - Would the project:</b>						
	a)	Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?				X
	b)	Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?				X
	c)	Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?			X	
	d)	Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?				X
	e)	Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project, that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?				X
	f)	Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?				X
	g)	Comply with Federal, State, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?				X

		Potential Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>XVII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE</b>					
a)	Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?				X
b)	Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)				X
c)	Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings either directly or indirectly?				X
<b>XVIII. DISCUSSION OF WAYS TO MITIGATE SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS</b>					
<p>Section 15041 (a) of the California Environmental Quality Act guidelines states that a lead agency for a project has authority to require changes in any or all activities involved in the project in order to lessen or avoid significant effects on the environment. No significant effects have been identified. However, the following mitigation measures have been included:</p> <p><u>Air Quality</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compliance with applicable air pollution control regulations.</li> </ul> <p><u>Noise</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compliance with all applicable noise ordinances during construction.</li> <li>• Construction activities would be restricted to the County appointed construction times.</li> </ul> <p><u>Transportation</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Advance notification of all street and/or lane closures and detours to all emergency service agencies and affected residents.</li> <li>4. Clear delineations and barricades to designate through traffic lanes.</li> </ol>					
A:\PALOSVERDES-WALTERIADRAIN.WPD					



**ATTACHMENT A**  
**DISCUSSION OF ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS**  
**PALOS VERDES-WALTERIA DRAIN**

**I. AESTHETICS - Would the project:**

**a) *Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?***

**No impact.** The proposed project would not have a substantial adverse effect on the scenic vista.

**b) *Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a State scenic highway?***

**No impact.** The proposed project will not damage trees, rock outcroppings, historic buildings, or any other scenic resources within a State scenic highway.

**c) *Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?***

**Less than significant impact.** The proposed project involves the construction of reinforced concrete pipe. During construction, excavation, compaction, and backfilling of the soil would occur. These impacts will be temporary and only for the period of construction. Most of the proposed project will not be visible. Small above-ground inlet structures will be constructed as part of the proposed project. The structures will be small and not openly visible. Following completion of construction, any disturbed area will be restored to its original condition. Also, a probable future lateral of the project may require the removal of a small number of trees. However, the removal will not result in substantially degrading the visual character of the site. Therefore, the proposed project will have less than significant impact on the visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings.

**d) *Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?***

**No impact.** The project does not include any additional lighting systems. Therefore, the proposed project will have no impact on day or nighttime views in the area.

**II. AGRICULTURE RESOURCES - In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. Would the project:**

- a) *Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland) as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to nonagricultural use?***

**No impact.** The location of the proposed project is not used for agricultural purposes nor as farmland. Therefore, the proposed project would have no impact on the conversion of farmland to nonagricultural use.

- b) *Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract?***

**No impact.** The proposed project will not conflict with a Williamson Act contract. The proposed project will not impact any existing zoning for agricultural use.

- c) *Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to nonagricultural use?***

**No impact.** The proposed project does not involve changes in the existing environment that could result in the conversion of farmland to nonagricultural use.

**III. AIR QUALITY - Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:**

- a) *Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?***

**No impact.** The County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works currently complies with dust control measures enforced by the South Coast Air Quality Management District. Therefore, the proposed project will not conflict with current implementation of the applicable air quality plan.

- b) *Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?***

**No impact.** The proposed project would not violate any air quality standard nor contribute significantly to an existing or projected air quality violation.

- c) ***Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is nonattainment under an applicable Federal or State ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?***

**No impact.** The proposed project will neither result in a permanent increase in vehicle trips to the project location nor lead to emissions which exceed thresholds for ozone precursors. Therefore, the proposed project would have no impact on ambient air quality standards.

- d) ***Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?***

**Less than significant impact.** The proposed project may create small amounts of dust from the construction and pollution from diesel trucks and large equipment. However, project construction will be temporary and short-term. Therefore, the exposure of sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations would be less than significant.

- e) ***Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?***

**Less than significant impact.** Objectionable odors may be generated from diesel trucks and other heavy equipment during construction activities. However, project construction would be short-term and temporary. Thus, the impact of the proposed project from objectionable odors is considered less than significant.

IV. **BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES - Would the project:**

- a) ***Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?***

**No impact.** No sensitive or special status species as identified by the California Department of Fish and Game or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are known to exist at the project site. Furthermore, the project will not substantially modify the habitat of any species. Therefore, the proposed project will have no impact on sensitive species.

- b) *Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?***

**Less than significant impact.** The proposed project would not have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community. However, a probable future lateral of the project would require the removal of small number of trees. The lateral would not have a substantially adverse effect on the habitat and, therefore, the proposed project would have a less than significant impact on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community.

- c) *Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?***

**No impact.** The proposed project would not have a substantial adverse effect on federally-protected wetland habitats through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means.

- d) *Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?***

**No impact.** The proposed project would not interfere with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or migratory wildlife corridors and would not impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites.

- e) *Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?***

**No impact.** The proposed project will not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources.

- f) *Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan; Natural Community Conservation Plan; or other approved local, regional, or State habitat conservation plan?***

**No impact.** The proposed project will not conflict with provisions of a Habitat Conservation, Natural Community Conservation, or any other habitat conservation plans.

**V. CULTURAL RESOURCES - Would the project:**

- a-d) *Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical or archaeological resource, directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource, site or geologic feature, or disturb any human remains including those interred outside formal cemeteries?***

**No impact.** No known historical, archaeological, or paleontological resources exist in the project area. However, if any cultural resources, including human remains, are discovered during construction, the contractor will cease all construction activities and contact a specialist to examine the project sites as required by project specifications. Thus, the effects of the proposed project on these resources are not considered significant.

**VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS - Would the project:**

- a) *Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:***

- i) *Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.***

**Less than significant impact.** The proposed project is located near a known fault. However, the fault has not been delineated on the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map. Construction activities related to the project would not be sufficient to cause rupture and construction will be temporary. Therefore, exposure of people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects due to the proposed project's construction activities would be considered less than significant.

- ii) *Strong seismic ground shaking?***

**Less than significant impact.** The proposed project is located near a fault. However, the project area has not been the epicenter of any known earthquake. Also, the activities related to the proposed project would not trigger strong seismic ground shaking. Therefore, the proposed project would have less than significant impact on strong seismic ground shaking.

- iii) *Seismic-related ground failure including liquefaction?***

**No impact.** The project area is not known to have suffered any liquefaction nor has it been identified as a potential liquefaction area. Other seismic-related ground failure would not be anticipated. Thus, the proposed project will have no impact on liquefaction.

***iv) Landslides?***

**Less than significant impact.** A portion of the proposed project would be constructed in steep areas between single-family homes. To minimize the potential for land slides in these areas, the proposed project will make use of existing storm drains. The drains will be slip-lined in to improve capacity and will not require open trench construction. Other portions of the project will be constructed in public streets with slopes of up to 11 percent. The project plans and specifications will contain control measures requiring the contractor to use techniques that minimize the potential for landslides in these project areas. The contractor will also be required to detail, in the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan, protective and remedial measures to reduce the potential of landslides. The measures shall include, but are not limited to, the availability and use of sandbags to prevent runoff from entering the trench, the backfilling and temporary paving of trenches if a storm of any magnitude is forecasted, and presence of Water Utility maintenance personnel at the project site when the trench wall is within four feet of any water conduit. In addition, all trenches will be shored per Cal/OSHA requirements. Therefore, the proposed project would have less than significant impact on exposing people or structures to landslides.

***b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?***

**No impact.** The proposed project will remove surface water from the hill and convey it through the underground storm drain. This will help prevent soil erosion. Therefore, the proposed project will not result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil.

***c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?***

**Less than significant impact.** A portion of the proposed project will be constructed on a steep hillside. However, the project will make use of the existing drain lines in these areas. Therefore, the hillside will be minimally disturbed by the project. This results in less than significant impact on exposing people or structures to landslides.

***d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?***

**No impact.** Some soil near the proposed project location may be considered expansive. However, the proposed project does not involve the construction of any structures. Therefore, the proposed project would have no impact by creating substantial risk to life or property.

- e) ***Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?***

**No impact.** There are no septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems at the proposed project site. Therefore, the proposed project will have no impact on the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems.

**VII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS - Would the project:**

- a) ***Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?***

**No impact.** The proposed project does not involve the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. Therefore, the proposed project will have no impact on the transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials.

- b-c) ***Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment or emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous materials, substances, or wastes within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?***

**Less than significant impact.** Combustible engine fluids from the construction equipment are potentially hazardous substances. Necessary precautions will be taken to prevent the spillage of any hazardous substances that may affect the public or the environment at the project site. It is unlikely that an explosion, emission, or release of hazardous or acutely hazardous substances will occur as a result of the proposed project. Project specifications would require the contractor to properly maintain all equipment during construction. In the event of any spills of fluids, the contractor is required to remediate according to all applicable laws regarding chemical cleanups, and the nearby school officials would be notified of the spill and any precautions to be taken. Thus, the proposed project impact on the public or the environment is considered less than significant.

- d) ***Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code, Section 65962.5, and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?***

**No impact.** The proposed project site is not located on a listed hazardous material site.

- e) ***For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?***

**Less than significant impact.** The proposed project is located within two miles of a public use airport. However, the proposed project will not result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area as a result of proximity to an airport.

- f) ***For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?***

**No impact.** The proposed project is not located within the vicinity of a private airstrip. Thus, the proposed project will not result in safety hazards for people residing or working in the project area.

- g) ***Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?***

**Less than significant impact.** During construction, emergency access will be maintained at all times. The project specifications will require the contractor to give advance notice of all street closures and detours to all emergency service providers within the area. Project construction will be temporary and will not cause the closure of any major streets. Therefore, the impact to emergency response or evacuation plans will be less than significant.

- h) ***Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?***

**Less than significant impact.** The proposed project is not located near wildlands. Also, open fire will not be allowed at the project site. Therefore, the proposed project will have less than significant impact on exposing people or structures to risk involving wildland fires.

#### **VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY - Would the project:**

- a) ***Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?***

**Less than significant impact.** The proposed drain will outlet into an existing drain that discharges into Waleria Lake. However, the project will not violate any water quality requirements. Also, the contractor is required to implement Best Management Practices as required by the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination



System permit issued to the County by the Regional Water Quality Control Board to minimize construction impacts on water quality. Therefore, the project will have less than significant impact on the water quality standards or waste discharge requirements.

- b) *Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of preexisting nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?***

**Less than significant impact.** The proposed project would not deplete ground water nor interfere substantially with ground water recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local ground water table level. A small amount of ground water recharge will be lost along the project alignment. However, ground water recharge will continue to occur in Walteria Lake. Therefore, the proposed project will have less than significant impact on the local ground water table.

- c) *Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on or off site?***

**Less than significant impact.** The proposed project will refine the drainage pattern of the proposed project site, but will not divert flows from other drainage areas. The changes to the drainage pattern will help reduce existing erosion on the hillside. Therefore, the proposed project will be beneficial and have less than significant impact on substantial erosion or siltation on or off the project site.

- d) *Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on or off site?***

**Less than significant impact.** The proposed project will refine the drainage pattern of the proposed project site. However, the changes to the drainage pattern will help prevent flooding in the project area. Therefore, the proposed project will have less than significant impact on flooding on or off the project site.

- e) *Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?***

**No impact.** The proposed project is the construction of a stormwater drainage system and will not result in additional surface water runoff. The proposed project will not add additional watershed nor additional flows to the receiving water body Walteria Lake. The contractor will take necessary precautions and ensure that any hazardous chemical spills are properly cleaned up. Thus, the proposed project will have no impact on the capacity of the stormwater drainage systems and will not provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff.

**f) *Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?***

**No impact.** The proposed project will not substantially degrade water quality.

**g) *Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a Federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?***

**No impact.** The proposed project will not place any housing within a 100-year flood hazard area.

**h) *Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?***

**No impact.** The proposed project will not place any structures within a 100-year flood hazard area which may impede or redirect flood flows.

**i) *Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?***

**No impact.** The proposed project will not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving flooding.

**j) *Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?***

**No impact.** The proposed project will not expose people or structures to inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow.

**IX. LAND USE AND PLANNING - Would the project:**

**a) *Physically divide an established community?***

**No impact.** The proposed project will not physically divide an established community.

- b) ***Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to, the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinances) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?***

**No impact.** The proposed project does not conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of agencies with jurisdiction over the project.

- c) ***Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?***

**No impact.** The proposed project will not conflict with habitat conservation or natural community conservation plans.

**X. MINERAL RESOURCES - Would the project:**

- a) ***Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the State?***

**No impact.** The construction of the proposed project would not deplete any known mineral resources. Therefore, the proposed project will have no impact resulting in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource.

- b) ***Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?***

**No impact.** The project site is not identified as a mineral resource recovery site in a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan. Therefore, the proposed project will have no impact on locally-important mineral resource recovery sites.

**XI. NOISE - Would the project result in:**

- a) ***Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?***

**Less than significant impact.** Noise levels within the proposed project site will increase during construction. However, the impact is temporary and will be subject to existing noise ordinances and standards set by the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration. The construction will not expose people to any significant increase in noise levels. Thus, the impact from severe noise levels is considered less than significant.

- b) *Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?***

**No impact.** The project would not generate excessive groundborne vibration or noise. Therefore, the proposed project will have no impact on the exposure of persons to groundborne noise and vibration.

- c) *A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project.***

**No impact.** There will be no substantial permanent increase in the ambient noise level due to the proposed project. Therefore, the proposed project will have no impact on permanent noise increases.

- d) *A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?***

**Less than significant impact.** During the construction phase of the project, there will be a nominal increase in existing noise levels due to construction and transportation of material to and from the project site. Construction activities will be limited to normal County and/or City-regulated hours. Due to the short-term nature of the project, the impact from ambient noise levels will be less than significant.

- e) *For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?***

**Less than significant impact.** The proposed project is located within two miles of a public use airport. However, the proposed project will not add significantly to the noise levels in the project area. Also, project construction would be temporary and short-lived. Therefore, the proposed project would have a less than significant impact on the exposure of people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels.

- f) *For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels or for a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?***

**No impact.** The proposed project will not be located within the vicinity of a private airstrip.

**XII. POPULATION AND HOUSING - Would the project:**

- a) *Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (e.g., by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (e.g., through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?***

**No impact.** The proposed project will not induce a population growth, either directly or indirectly. Therefore, the project will not induce a significant population growth.

- b-c) *Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere, or displace substantial numbers of people necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?***

**No impact.** The proposed project will not displace existing houses or people, creating a demand for replacement housing. Therefore, the project will have no impact on the construction of replacement housing.

**XIII. PUBLIC SERVICE - Would the project:**

- a) *Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services: Fire protection, police protection, schools, parks, other public facilities?***

**No impact.** The project will not affect public service and will not result in a need for new or altered governmental services in fire protection, police protection, schools, parks, or other public facilities. The project will not have an impact on fire or police protection services as a result of new or physically altered governmental facilities.

**XIV. RECREATION - Would the project:**

- a) *Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?***

**No impact.** The proposed project would not increase the use of existing neighborhood or regional parks.

- b) ***Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?***

**No impact.** The proposed project does not include recreational facilities and does not require the construction or expansion of any recreational facilities.

**XV. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC - Would the project:**

- a) ***Cause an increase in traffic, which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?***

**Less than significant impact.** The proposed project will require transportation of construction equipment and materials to the project site. This could minimally increase the existing traffic. However, the impact would be only during construction of the proposed project and is, therefore, temporary. Thus, the impact of the proposed project on substantial traffic increases is considered to be less than significant.

- b) ***Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the County Congestion Management Agency for designated roads or highways?***

**No impact.** The proposed project will not exceed a level of service standard established by the County Congestion Management Agency for roads or highways in the project area.

- c) ***Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location, that results in substantial safety risks?***

**No impact.** The proposed project will have no impact on air traffic patterns.

- d) ***Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?***

**No impact.** The proposed project does not involve any design features or incompatible uses constituting safety hazards.

**e) *Result in inadequate emergency access?***

**Less than significant impact.** Emergency access will be maintained at all times. The contractor will be required to notify all emergency service providers within the area of any road closures or detours. However, one lane of traffic will be maintained along the project at all times. Therefore, the proposed project will have less than significant impact on emergency access.

**f) *Result in inadequate parking capacity?***

**Less than significant impact.** The proposed project will not result in the need for more parking. During project construction, parking on surface streets near the construction may be restricted. However, project construction will be temporary and short-lived. Therefore, the proposed project will have less than significant impact on parking capacity.

**g) *Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?***

**No impact.** The proposed project would not conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation.

**XVI. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS - Would the project:**

**a) *Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?***

**No impact.** The project will not result in contaminated wastewater that might affect wastewater treatment. Also, the proposed project will not require wastewater treatment. Therefore, the proposed project will have no impact on the wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board.

**b) *Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?***

**No impact.** The proposed project will not require the construction or expansion of new water or wastewater treatment facilities.

- c) ***Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?***

**Less than significant impact.** The proposed project consists of constructing new stormwater drainage facilities. The proposed project also includes the description of four probable stormwater drainage laterals. However, the environmental impacts of new stormwater drainage facilities and proposed laterals are less than significant.

- d) ***Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources or are new or expanded entitlements needed?***

**No impact.** The proposed project will not result in a need for additional water supplies or entitlements. Therefore, the project will have no impact on existing water resources.

- e) ***Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?***

**No impact.** No increase in the amount of wastewater discharged will occur as a result of the proposed project. Therefore, the proposed project will have no impact on wastewater treatment capacity.

- f) ***Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?***

**No impact.** The proposed project will not require substantial amounts of solid waste disposal. Therefore, the proposed project will have no impact on landfill capacity.

- g) ***Comply with Federal, State, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?***

**No impact.** The project would comply with all Federal, State, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste.



**XVII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE - Would the project:**

- a) *Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?***

**No impact.** Based on findings in this environmental review, the proposed project does not have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish and wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of California history.

- b) *Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects?)***

**No impact.** The proposed project would not have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable.

- c) *Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?***

**No impact.** The proposed project would not have a direct or indirect detrimental environmental impact on human beings.

## **ATTACHMENT B**

### **COMMENTS AND RESPONSES TO WRITTEN COMMENTS**

#### **RECEIVED ON THE INITIAL STUDY AND MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

Presented below are responses to written comments received during circulation of the Initial Study/Negative Declaration regarding the proposed Palos Verdes-Walteria Storm Drain. Responses are provided to all comments that raise environmental issues, as required by the State of California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines. Copies of the letters of comment are included on the following pages.

#### Response to letter of comment received from Betty Moye and John Barton

- 1-1 The County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works is aware that the project will be constructed in a geotechnically active area. Engineering of the project is based on a precise topographic survey. As stated in the Negative Declaration, one of the objectives of the proposed project is to remove surface storm water from the project area. Preventing storm water from infiltrating into the ground will help mitigate landslides and soil erosion. The Negative Declaration also states that the project will be constructed in a steep, hilly area. Although Public Works is not specifically required by the California Environmental Quality Act to provide topographical drawings of the project area, such maps can be viewed by residents and state or local agencies requesting this information at Public Works' headquarters building in Alhambra.
- 1-2 See response to comment 1-1.
- 1-3 The project map was intended only as a schematic and to be used as a general location map. The proposed project is still in the public review period and, therefore, the alignment and size of the storm drain has not yet been finalized. However, partial project plans can be viewed upon request at Public Works' headquarters building in Alhambra.
- 1-4 Public Works is aware that the proposed project will be complex in design and construction. All appropriate engineering and geotechnical investigations and analysis are included in the design of this project. The purpose of the Negative Declaration is to address the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project.
- 1-5 The Negative Declaration reads, "A portion of the proposed project would be constructed in steep areas between single-family homes. To minimize the potential for land slides in these areas, the proposed project will make use of existing storm drains. The drains will be slip-lined to improve capacity and will not require open trench construction." This paragraph refers to the portion of the storm drain that is not in a city street, going uphill from the intersection of Ocean Avenue, 244th Street, and Newton Street within easements through private property. This paragraph does not refer to the storm drain to be constructed in Vista Montana, which is not as steep as the hillside above Newton Street. We will indeed be constructing a drain in Vista Montana. Measures will be taken to ensure that neither construction activities nor the completed storm drain increase the risk of landslides. These

measures include trench shoring and backfill designed specifically for this project based on the geotechnical investigation performed for this project, continuous construction inspection of trenching operations by the County throughout the duration of the project, and rubber gasketed pipe joints to prevent leakage of the storm drain into the hillside. As mentioned in the response to question 1, the collection of surface runoff by the proposed storm drain will also reduce the amount of water, which infiltrates the hillside.

- 1-6 Public Works is aware of the history of the proposed project area. Geologic/Geotech historical data is presented in the consultant's Geotechnical report. The proposed project will remove storm water from the project area and help to reduce saturation of the project slopes (see response to comment 1-1). As stated in the Negative Declaration, the project will not include open trench construction between residences. Other portions of the project will be constructed in public streets. For these portions of the proposed project the Negative Declaration states that the "project plans and specifications will contain control measures requiring the contractor to use techniques that minimize the potential for landslides in these project areas. The contractor will also be required to detail, in the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan, protective and remedial measures to reduce the potential of landslides. The measures shall include, but are not limited to, the availability and use of sandbags to prevent runoff from entering the trench, the backfilling and temporary paving of trenches if a storm of any magnitude is forecasted, and presence of Water Utility maintenance personnel at the project site when the trench wall is within four feet of any water conduit. In addition, all trenches will be shored per Cal/OSHA requirements. Therefore, the proposed project would have less than significant impact on exposing people or structures to landslides."
- 1-7 Public Works is aware that the project construction will be complex (see response to comment 1-4). However, the construction of the proposed project will remove storm water from the project area, which will help reduce the potential for landslides due to saturated soil conditions (see response to comment 1-6). Several alternatives were considered and presented to the public for discussion during three different public meetings. Also, the present storm drain is not adequate as frequent flooding has occurred in the project area.